

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendments, Claims 1-6 are currently pending in this application. Claims 7-15 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-6 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,418,782 to Wasilewski et al. (hereinafter "Wasilewski").

Regarding claim 1, Wasilewski discloses a method for enabling a subscriber to access different basic services in a multi-service communications system wherein each of the different basic services comprises a plurality of service components and the service components of the each basic service are received at the subscriber location in a multiplexed form on one of a plurality of frequency channels.

Wasilewski discloses the method comprising the steps of generating a virtual service definition for each basic service and periodically transmitting the virtual service definition to the subscriber. A decoder then tunes to the frequency channel and extracts a virtual service definition. Each basic service transmitted to the subscriber is assigned a unique virtual service number, the assignment is completely arbitrary and is assigned by the communications system.

Although Wasilewski provides a system in which the operator of a communications system can assign service numbers to each basic service, Wasilewski does not suggest, teach or disclose the transmission of a datastream that includes a network information table, linkable descriptor or a second descriptor.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Wasilewski does not suggest, teach or disclose the system or method of the present application and therefore independent claim 1 is patentable over Wasilewski.

Claims 2-6 depend, either directly or indirectly, upon patentable amended independent claim 1, and are therefore patentable over the Wasilewski reference for at least the same reasons as patentable amended independent claim 1. Claims 7-15 have been cancelled and therefore, the argument directed to these claims is moot.

Applicant: Bleker et al.
Application No.: 10/574,366

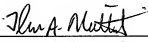
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-6, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Bleker et al.

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Enclosure(s) (2)